

Permanency



- Extended foster parent training services to relative caregivers and formally changed the name of the training program to the Foster Parent/Kinship Training Institute.
- Revised Washington Administrative Code (WAC) to be more responsive to licensing services for relative caregivers.
- Implemented House Bill 1233 the Kinship Service Bill, which includes standardized relative search protocol; collaboration of public, private and community efforts to fund two Kinship Navigator positions; and establishment of a Kinship Oversight Committee.
- Received a \$1,000,000 budget proviso for the use of TANF monies for unlicensed relative caregivers.
- Celebrated the tenth annual Gubernatorial signing of the Washington State Grandparent's Proclamation.
- Awarded the first ever relative caregiver and advocate awards to the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)

News Advisory, March 2004
Performance Report, 2003

Objective: Increase relative placements

Measured by: Children placed with extended family members

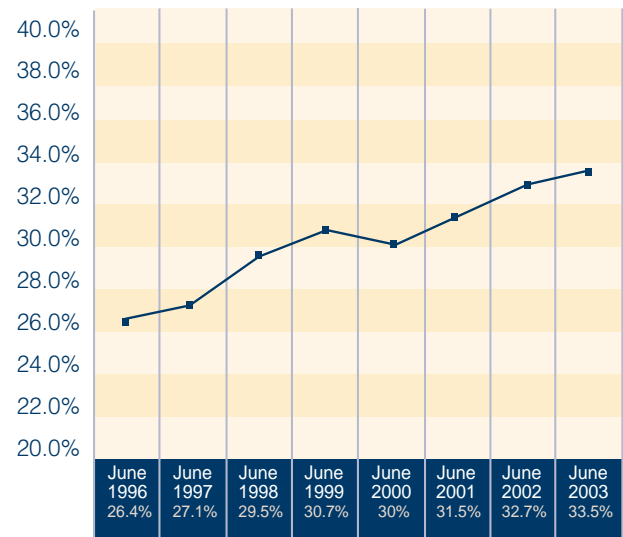
Children removed from their families due to abuse, neglect or other factors experience multiple long-term effects. Not only have children endured the traumas that lead to their removal, but often they feel tremendous grief and loss at having been separated from their only known family. Children are often fiercely loyal and have an unfathomable capacity for forgiveness. They often long only for the sense of belonging and familiarity they once knew even if it may have been amid difficult and often painful circumstances.

Throughout history, extended families have instinctively stepped in to provide for the children of deceased, ill or incapacitated parents. As families have increasingly drifted further apart both geographically and emotionally, this informal practice may not always naturally occur.

Emphasis is placed upon returning children to their families whenever it is in the child's best interest and when it is not, to seek out appropriate extended relatives with whom a child may live permanently. In cases where reunification is the permanency plan, CA attempts to place children with relatives while working toward reunification.

In Washington State this commitment may be seen at the practice, system and legislative levels, evidenced by increasing numbers of children placed with extended families, increased services to support those families and revisions to Washington Administrative Code.

Percent of Children in Placement with Relatives*



* The number of children in placement with a relative "of specified degree" for at least 60 days, excluding guardianships, on the last day of the quarter with a placement type of licensed or unlicensed relative.